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Letter dated 24 September 2002 from the Chairman of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1373 (2001) concerning counter-terrorism addressed to the President of the Security Council

The Counter-Terrorism Committee has received the attached additional report from Ghana submitted pursuant to paragraph 6 of resolution 1373 (2001) (see annex).

I should be grateful if you could arrange for the present letter and its annex to be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Jeremy **Greenstock**
Chairman
Counter-Terrorism Committee

02-60730 (E) 141002

Annex

Note verbale dated 18 September 2002 from the Permanent Mission of Ghana to the United Nations addressed to the Chairman of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1373 (2001) concerning counter-terrorism

The Permanent Mission of Ghana to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Chairman of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1373 (2001) concerning counter-terrorism and, with reference to the former's note of 18 June 2002, has the honour to forward, herewith, a more comprehensive report on activities by the Government of Ghana in compliance with the said resolution (see enclosure).

Enclosure

Report of the Republic of Ghana to the Counter-Terrorism Committee, pursuant to Security Council resolution 1373 (2001) of 28 September 2001

Ghana has always condemned International Terrorism and has stressed that it is opposed to International Terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. Ghana has also stressed that terrorists acts are totally unacceptable as a means of seeking redress for any grievances, achieving political ends or supporting a cause since such acts cause political instability, disrupt economic and social development and constitute a danger to international peace and security.

Ghana is, so far, party to the following seven (7) major instruments on International Terrorism:-

(i) Tokyo Convention and Offences and Certain Other Acts Committed on Board Aircrafts of 1963;

(ii) Montreal Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts Against Safety of Civil Aviation of 1971;

(iii) The Hague Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Seizure Aircrafts;

(iv) Protocol Supplementing the 1971 Montreal Convention on the Suppression of Unlawful Actions of Violence;

(v) New York Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of Crimes Against Internationally Protected persons, including Diplomatic Agents of 1973;

(vi) International Convention Against Taking of Hostages of 1979;

(vii) Protocol for the Suppression of unlawful Acts of Violence at Airports Serving International Civil Aviation Supplementary to the Convention for Suppressing Unlawful Acts Against the Safety of Civil Aviation of 1988;

In addition Ghana has ratified the following five (5) UN Resolution on International Terrorism and the Organization of African Unity (OAU) Convention on the Prevention and Combating of Terrorism, Algiers 1999:

a. International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing Terrorism.

b. International Convention for the Suppression of Terrorist Bombings.

c. Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Maritime Navigation.

d. Convention for the Physical protection of nuclear material.

e. Protocol for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the safety of fixed platforms located on the continental shelf.

All the necessary instructions have been despatched to New York and Addis Ababa for deposit with the treaty section of the UN and the AU respectively.

Since the September 11, 2001 terrorist bombings in the United States of America, the Government of Ghana has demonstrated an increasing commitment to the global fight and international cooperation against terrorism in all its manifestations.

The commitment of Government is evidenced by the practical steps he has undertaken in recent times on the domestic, regional and international front, in conformity with UN Security Council Resolution 1373 (2001) of 28th September, 2001.

MEASURES UNDERTAKEN BY GOVERNMENT

In October, 2001 a counter-terrorism intelligence centre was established. This Centre, which is composed of personnel drawn from various states Security and Intelligence agencies, is an outfit under the National Security Council, and reports directly to the National Security Coordinator, who is also its Director.

The mandate or objective of this Centre is principally to conduct counter-terrorism intelligence activities, and this includes undertaking intelligence gathering and also collating/analyzing terrorism-related information/intelligence received from all sources. The ultimate goal is to be able to acquire sound, timely and reliable intelligence and data on terrorist activities with the view to identifying, locating and apprehending targets.

The counter-terrorism intelligence centre is not fashioned to operate in isolation. The National Security Coordinator to whom all Intelligence agencies are responsible is ensuring greater cooperation among the various Units, particularly in the exchange of intelligence bordering on terrorism, narcotic trafficking and money laundering.

Conscious efforts are also being made to sensitize and focus the orientation of the Security/Intelligence Service such as the Police, Defense, Internal and External Intelligence, on counter-terrorism through separate and joint training programmes, organized under the auspices of the National Security Council. Through the instrumentality of governments of some developed countries, these Security/Intelligence agencies have benefitted from expertise and logistical support in counter-terrorism activities.

The presence of trading in arms, weapons and explosive materials in the sub region, as a result of political conflicts, is a matter of great concern. It is a known fact that Terrorist organizations are fond of associating with this kind of trade, drug trafficking, money laundering and other illegal businesses for the purpose, among others, of raising funds for their activities. To arrest this menace, the Counter-Terrorism Unit of the Defense Intelligence, the Narcotic Control Board, the Customs Excise and Preventive Service, the External and Internal Intelligence have been brought closer together in sharing vital information.

The capabilities of Border Authorities, the Immigration and Customs Services, are also being upgraded so as to track down terrorists and other criminals who attempt to cross national frontiers using falsified documents or with dangerous materials. Plans are underway, with international support, to acquire and install very sophisticated equipment at the Kotoka International Airport and later at other frontiers, for the Immigration Service. These equipment have necessary components for enhancing the detection of documents, fraud and creating data base of travellers.

The Government recognized that the fight against terrorism requires greater cooperation among relevant agencies not only within the state but also outside it. To this end, therefore, steps are being made at the sub regional level to promote the exchange of intelligence among the various counter-terrorism intelligence centres. The Government is currently cooperating with the US Government in this direction and will not hesitate to collaborate with other Governments.

Ghana is a member of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), the Commonwealth and the African Union and therefore subscribes to their objectives and principles.

The ECOWAS, during its 25th Session of the Authority of Heads of State and Government held in Dakar in December, 2001, condemned terrorism and urged member states to ratify all UN and the OAU Conventions on terrorism, and also called on its members to implement the provisions of the Dakar Declaration on Terrorism.

In the first week of March, 2002, the Commonwealth, during its Heads of Government meeting in Coolum, Australia, pledged to work together to fulfill the international obligation to deny any safe haven for terrorists and fight terrorism.

The Government of Ghana commits itself to the following, among others;

a. Review national laws and establish criminal offences (i.e. amend Criminal Code Act 1960 Act 29) for terrorist acts and make such acts punishable.

b. The Ministry of Justice to expedite action on the proposed Bill on Terrorism which would include issues on definition, jurisdiction, penalties, financing of terrorism, money laundering, extradition, etc.

c. Deny safe haven to those who finance, plan, support or commit terrorist acts, or provide safe havens.

d. Prevent the movement of terrorists or terrorist groups by effective border controls.

e. Ensure, in conformity with international law, that refugee status is not abused by perpetrators, organisers or facilitators of terrorist acts and

f. Freeze funds and other financial assets or economic resources of persons who commit, or attempt to commit terrorist acts or facilitate the commission of terrorists acts.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

In order to effectively undertake activities in combating terrorism in all its forms, the following technical assistance will be required:

a. Resource support for conducting border patrols;

b. Equipment and other support to strengthen border authorities in arresting falsified document users and smuggling (concealment of dangerous materials) across frontiers;

c. Support towards maintaining adequate physical structures at frontiers which are largely porous;

d. Resourcing the Intelligence Agencies and the counter-terrorism intelligence centre to deal effectively with terrorism and associated crimes.

CONCLUSION

The Intelligence/Security Services of Ghana are determined to defend the nation against terrorism and all forms of criminal activity perpetrated by nationals or non nationals on her soil.

A counter-terrorism intelligence centre has been established since October, 2001 under the National Security Council, as the nucleus of all counter-terrorism intelligence activity.

The Government has taken steps to strengthen control of her frontiers against terrorists and their activities.

Cooperation has been forged among the various Intelligence/Security agencies within the country on the exchange of intelligence relating to terrorist activities and associated crimes. The same initiative is being undertaken among counter-terrorism intelligence centres in the sub region.

The Government of Ghana is more than willing to cooperate with any Government on the subject of combating terrorism, drug trafficking, arms trading and money laundering.

With regard to Operative Paragraph one (1), sub-paragraphs (a) and (c), the relevant government agencies (i.e. Ministry of Finance and Bank of Ghana) are working on the modalities aimed at suppressing the financing of terrorist acts and freezing accounts and assets at banks and other financial institutions.